

Meeting with School and Town about Falls Field and Memorial Park
August 4, 2020 10:00 AM Municipal Building

Present: Jeff Schulz, Town Manager; TJ Powers, NMHS Athletic Director; Bill Kirby, NMHS Head of Maintenance; Bethany Drum, Recreation Committee Member; Dan Morris, Little League President; Frank Hall, Recreation Committee Member/JV Girls' Softball Coach; Sally Davidson, Recreation Committee Chairman

The meeting started with an update from Sally on the parks maintenance and what had been done and what is still in need of getting done. The entrance to Memorial Park and Memorial Park parking lot had been graded with some added material to smooth out the deep ruts and holes, big improvement. This project was taken care of by the Town's Highway Crew.

Dead trees had been taken down by Snapping Turtle and they also removed dead branches from other trees. They chipped the branches and cut the tree to length so it could be taken to a family in Northfield Falls so they would be warm this winter.

The ditching of the Basketball Court still needs to get done. It has been scheduled by Lynn Doney and we are still waiting for the person (David?) to come and do it. Once the ditching is done rocks, for drainage, will be laid around the court then the court will be resurfaced and marked by professionals. The same company that did it before. A Tennis Court Company from St. Johnsbury I believe.

The Recreation Committee is planning on painting/staining the pavilion and bathroom doors this year. We are waiting for a day when we can get together as a group to do this task.

The Recreation Committee is reaching out to local electricians to get a proposal to run power to the pavilion and to light up the basketball court for night playing. The goal is to get estimates this year and try to get the project done this year. The Northfield Rotary has expressed interest in possibly helping us with the cost to do this project.

TJ asked how the lights were going to be operated. Sally said there would be outlets in the dugouts and the ceiling lights would be motion activated. The lights for the basketball area would be set up to come on at dusk and go off at dawn just like the streetlights in town. This would probably be the same for the light to aluminate the bathroom area. He then mentioned that some areas have a coin box for the service of lights. You drop coins in the box for so much time of light use. Would we consider that?

The Recreation Committee and the Little League have spoken and together they decided to put the "Banner Project Fundraiser" on hold until next year. With this pandemic a lot of businesses have had to close their doors and finances are not as in good of shape as they would be if the businesses were open. Out of respect for the situation we decided to postpone the fundraiser project for a year. Little League initially was selling smaller banners than the Recreation Committee. Dan said Little League has decided to sell the same size as the Recreation Committee because they are much more visible. The size of the banners is 4'x8'.

Demas Builders has been in touch with Sally and said they would be starting the replacement of the dugout roofs in a week or two. They will be replacing all four dugout roofs at Memorial Park.

The subject of replacing the protective screening on the baseball dugouts was brought up. Bill Kirby said his crew would make sure that would get done soon. Bill asked if we ever found the roll of chicken wire to use for the screening and he was told it had disappeared. Bill said they would get some for the project. Sally told him the town crew had drilled the holes in the bars for us so they would be easier to attach (drill it to the dugout) so the bars may be at the town garage. At this point Frank interjected that he had picked the bars up from the town garage and they were at his house. Frank asked Bill how he could get them to him. Bill and Frank agreed a phone call would take place between the two of them when this project was going to happen.

Dan gave us an update on the scoreboards. They have been purchased and all three are here and ready for installation. They are all remotely operated. Bill said they are like the one they have at Garvey Field and he can help Dan with the installation of them if he would like the help.

Dan then gave us an update on the Falls Fields job of rebuilding both fields. They are expecting to start the job the last week of August. Bill told Dan that Wade can make the anchors for the bases for them because Wade has made them before and has a cast, he uses to make them. Dan was thankful for this and he and bill agreed to get together early next week.

As the meeting was winding down TJ asked Sally about the Use of Parks Application Forms; where they are, how to get them, where to bring completed form, etc. Sally told TJ they are on Northfield's website under Recreation Committee and there is also a calendar there of what dates are available and which dates have already been scheduled. She told him Ken McCann was in his office across the hall, he could go there, and Ken would give him one. Once filled out Ken McCann gets it and he forwards it to me, and the Recreation committee acts on it at their next meeting. The school does not have to pay a deposit. Then Sally asked TJ who the Girls Varsity Basketball Coach is because she had met her at Memorial Park during one of our Recreation Committee Meetings and she asked if she needed to fill out an application to use the basketball court. I told her if she wanted a schedule of use, she needed to fill one out, but if she was just coming up at different times she could take her chances as to whether it would be available or not. She has never filled out a form, so I assume she does not have a practice schedule she is trying to keep. She introduced herself to me as Trish, TJ told me her name is Trish Singer.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Sally A. Davidson and are subject to approval.